



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 81780
Customer No. 23685

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
ALEXANDER WINKER)
Serial No.: 09/994,462) Group Art Unit: 3679
Filed: November 26, 2001) Examiner: Flemming Saether
For: SECURING NUT AND METHOD) Confirmation Number: 9502
FOR ITS FABRICATION)

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant discloses the following information:

1. PCT Publication No. 94/07040, published March 31, 1994. This document discloses a device for joining at least two elements. One element has a pin (1) and the other element has a reception (2) for the pin (1). At least one circumferential area of the pin (1) has at least one cam (5) that radially projects over an imaginary cylindrical surface (4) and the reception has in its circumferential direction a number of grooves (8) corresponding to the number of cams (5) and which radially deepen an imaginary cylindrical surface (7). The cams (5) and grooves (8) are designed as wedge profiles whose wedging surfaces (6,9) substantially follow the path of a logarithmic spiral with respect to the axis of the pin (1) or reception (2). The pitch of cooperating wedging surfaces (6,9) has the same value and is so flat that when the cooperating wedging surfaces (6,9) contact each other following an increase in the joining pressure, a self-locking, clearance-free frictional engagement is ensured between the pin (1) and the reception (2), independently of the direction of rotation and of the stress direction, both radial and axial.

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2. European Patent Application No. EP 0 825 354 A2, published February 25, 1998. This document discloses a device for joining a shaft 6 (for instance a screw 2) with a hub (for instance a nut). The outer circumferential surface of the shaft 6 comprises at least one radially increasing wedge surface 8 and the inner circumferential surface of the hub 4 comprises the same number of wedge surfaces, whereby the wedge surfaces of the shaft 6 and the hub 4 face each other and the pitch angles of both are identically shaped. In addition to those wedge surfaces on the outer circumferential surface of the shaft 6 and the inner circumferential surface of the hub 4 an elevation 10 and/or a depression 12 are provided.

3. German Offenlegungsschrift DE 42 31 320 A1, published March 24, 1994. This document discloses a connection between a bolt 1 and a nut 2 by wedge-shaped surfaces. The bolt 1 is provided with radially increasing wedge surfaces 5 on its superficies and the nut 2 comprises identically wedge-shaped radially deepenings 8. By turning the joined elements against each other, a self-locking connection between both is achieved.

4. German Offenlegungsschrift DE 43 27 461 A1, published October 27, 1994. This document discloses an arrangement of a core element 10 inside a pressure element 30, whereby between the core element 10 and the pressure element 30 a sleeve 20 is located. The sleeve 20 is axially slitted (see reference number 23) and comprises on its outer surface axially increasing rotation wedge profiles 25, which are complementary shaped to rotating wedge profiles 35 which are formed at the inner circumferential surface 34 of the pressure element 30. After assembling the three elements 10, 20 and 30 and twisting them against each other, a locking of the core element 10 inside the sleeve is achieved.

Copies of the foregoing documents are provided with this paper. In addition, these documents are listed on the enclosed PTO Form FB-A820. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the enclosed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the enclosed form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists and does not constitute an admission that the enclosed documents constitute "prior art."

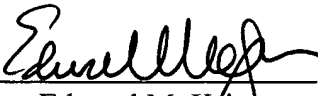
Applicant reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the enclosed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present invention.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed herewith in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are

not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

Kriegsman & Kriegsman

By: 
Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
665 Franklin Street
Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 879-3500

Dated: July 19, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2004


Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
Dated: July 19, 2004

